

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05

AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00

FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04

TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /117 W

-----130554 101528Z /40

R 101445Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6786

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, AG

SUBJECT: MONTHLY REPORT ON SELECTED CRUDE PRICES

REF: STATE 158673

1. NEITHER THE GOA NOR SONATRACH RELEASES FIGURES ON THE PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY OR PRODUCTION OF SPECIFIC FIELDS, NOR IS THERE A PUBLISHED OFFICIAL SELLING PRICE FOR ALGERIAN CRUDES.

2. WE ASSUME THAT WHAT IS NEEDED IS INFORMATION ON SAHARAN BLEND AND NOT JUST ON HASSI MESSAOUD 45 DEGREES. SAHARAN BLEND, WHICH IS SHIPPED OUT THROUGH ARZEW, SKIKDA AND BEJAIA, CONSISTS MOSTLY OF CRUDE FROM HASSI MESSAOUD BUT ALSO CONTAINS CRUDES FROM SMALLER FIELDS. (ZARZAITINE, SHIPPED THROUGH TUNISIA, IS THE OTHER ALGERIAN CRUDE REACHING INTERNATIONAL MARKETS.)

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3. KNOWING THAT IT WOULD BE FUTILE TO ASK ALGERIAN SOURCES FOR THE INFORMATION REQUESTED, WE HAVE NOT DONE SO. ANOTHER AND FULLY RELIABLE SOURCE HAS PROMISED US FIGURES ON PRODUCTION AT HASSI MESSAOUD (APPROXIMATELY TWO MILLION METRIC TONS PER MONTH) BUT HAS NO INFORMATION ON THE SMALLER FIELDS WHOSE PRODUCTION IS PIPED WITH HASSI MESSAOUD AND SOLD AS SAHARAN BLEND. WE WILL OF

COURSE FORWARD SUCH FIGURES AS WE RECEIVE BUT DEPARTMENT SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT COMPLETE FIGURES ON SAHARAN BLEND ARE NOT AVAILABLE.

4. AS WITH PRODUCTION, SO WITH PRICES. SONATRACH DOES NOT QUOTE PRICES AND DOES NOT RELEASE INFORMATION ON PRICES OR TERMS ACTUALLY NEGOTIATED. WE BELIEVE THAT PRICES PUBLISHED BY THE PETROLEUM INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY (CURRENTLY \$14.45 FOR SAHARAN BLEND AND \$14.40 FOR ZARZAITINE) ARE ACCURATE BUT SUGGEST DEPARTMENT CHECK WITH U.S. BUYERS, WHO ARE NOW TAKING WELL OVER HALF OF ALGERIAN PRODUCTION.

5. IN VIEW OF LACK OF SOLID AND REGULAR INFORMATION HERE WE ASSUME WE WILL NOT BE EXPECTED TO SEND MONTHLY REPORT. WE WILL OF COURSE SUBMIT SUCH PRICE AND PRODUCTION INFORMATION AS COMES OUR WAY.HAYNES

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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